

HOUSE RESOLUTION 227

By Shaw

A RESOLUTION informing Tennesseans of the "Digital Television Transition Act of 2009" and the February 17, 2009, deadline for the switch from analog to digital television broadcasts.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress enacted legislation in 1996, which mandated that every federally licensed full power television broadcaster cease broadcasting in analog signal and thereafter broadcast exclusively in the digital format no later than February 17, 2009; and

WHEREAS, to facilitate the transition to digital television, Congress loaned each full powered television broadcaster an extra channel of spectrum, so that a digital format could be broadcast simultaneously with the analog format until the 2009 transition is complete; at that time the analog channel would be returned to the government for resale; and

WHEREAS, the transition from analog to digital signal represents the most significant advance in television technology since the introduction of color television in the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of digital television are clear: sharper pictures, superior sound quality, and additional programming choices; and

WHEREAS, over 90% of the television stations in the United States are already broadcasting in a digital format, although most consumers are unaware of the transition deadline; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans using older analog televisions and antennas who are unaware of this mandated switch to digital broadcasting may be caught unawares on February 17, 2009, when analog television signals will no longer be broadcast; and

WHEREAS, digital converter boxes, which enable analog televisions to receive digital signals, will be available at a reasonable price to Tennesseans so that their analog televisions will continue to be useable; and

WHEREAS, subscribing to cable, satellite, or certain telephone company telephone services will also allow Tennesseans to receive digital signals on those analog television sets attached to those signals; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that citizens of the State of Tennessee, having been made aware of the impending transition to the exclusively digital broadcasting of television signals on February 17, 2009, should take steps to ensure that their reception of television channels continues unabated, by either acquiring a digital converter box or by subscribing to a cable, satellite, or television service that provides digital capabilities to their analog televisions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.